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THE EXTENSION HORTICULTURIST

September 1, 1921.

What are you doing for the farm orchard ?
Are you helping to provide fruit for the
5,000,000 farmers of the country?

What are you doing for the farm garden ?
Are you helping to provide vegetables for
the 5,000,000 farmers of the country ?

HOW ARE YOU DOING IT ?

Office of Horticultural and Pomological Investigations
and States Relations Service Cooperating
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D. C.

Field Meeting at Lexington, Mass.

Wednesday, August 3rd, was the occasion of the second annual field demonstration meeting held on the grounds of the Lexington, Mass. Demonstration Gardens under the direction of Prof. H. F. Tompson, head of the vegetable gardening department of the college at Amherst. These gardens consisting of about twenty acres are equipped with buildings and greenhouses and are a part of the college but located near Lexington in order to be near the main vegetable producing section of the state.

There were about 160 automobiles on the grounds and in the neighborhood of 700 to 800 people witnessed the demonstrations. Prof. Tompson was the busiest man on the job and with a megaphone in his hand was everywhere over the grounds directing the demonstrations, answering questions and in every way making the day a great success. Representatives of the various departments of the college were on hand to lead the demonstrations. In the Service Building there was staged a practical demonstration on the preparation of the various spray materials, also the treatment of celery seed with hot water to prevent the spread of late celery blight. Demonstrations were conducted showing the proper method of applying spray mixtures and insecticides.

No doubt most gardeners think they know how to do a good job of plowing but Prof. Tompson and his assistants certainly did give the crowd a demonstration in the proper way to turn under a heavy growth of green manure by the use of a chain on the plow. When the plowing was started the growth of grass was about $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet in height but when the plowing was completed, not a sign of the grass or weeds could be seen.

One of the most interesting events of the day was a plant setting contest which was participated in by several gardeners who evidently thought they were "some glass" when it came to setting plants. It took a woman who works on one of the nearby gardens, however, to convince them all that they were not in it. She won the contest with a record of over 2100 cabbage plants an hour and every plant was put in so that you could pull the top off it without pulling it up. This contest brought out a great many important points in connection with the setting of plants and provided a great entertaining feature for the crowd.

Garden tractors were everywhere in evidence with the little fellows that were used in cultivating small crops in the majority. The gardeners showed themselves very greatly interested in the work of these tractors and quite a large number reported that they were now using some form of small tractor to supplement their horse power during heavy periods of cultivation.

At 3:30 P. M. the summer meeting of the Massachusetts Vegetable Growers' Association was held on the hillside adjoining the new office and laboratory building which is now under construction. During the course of this meeting Prof. Tompson called attention to some of the important needs of the trucking industry of Massachusetts and outlined twelve points as a basis for a plan of work looking toward the more systematic attack of the various problems.

Prof. Tompson and his associates are to be congratulated not only upon the success of the annual field meeting at the Station but upon the results that they are obtaining in connection with the work of the Station. This work is divided 50-50 between investigational and extension with the emphasis on the extension work.

The Passing of Mr. Jacob Hittinger

"We shall miss Hittinger" was the remark heard on all sides at the field meeting of the Massachusetts Vegetable Growers' Association at Lexington. Jacob Hittinger is dead. It seems but a few days, it was on May 10th to be exact, since the writer (Mr. Beattie) walked in company with Mr. Hittinger over his splendid gardens and among his blossoming trees. We climbed the hill examining the buds and the set of fruit on his peach trees and the currant bushes interplanted among the apples and the prospects looked good for an abundant crop. The following day was cold and on that night there was a freeze over the greater part of New England that killed much of the fruit and blasted the hopes of the growers and now a greater frost has taken Mr. Hittinger.

The acres that comprise the gardens and orchards, so carefully watched over by Mr. Hittinger during the later years of his life, are among the most perfect and intensive fruit plantings in the United States today and stand as a monument to a man whose leadership by example and demonstration have been a mighty influence upon the horticultural industry of the eastern states.

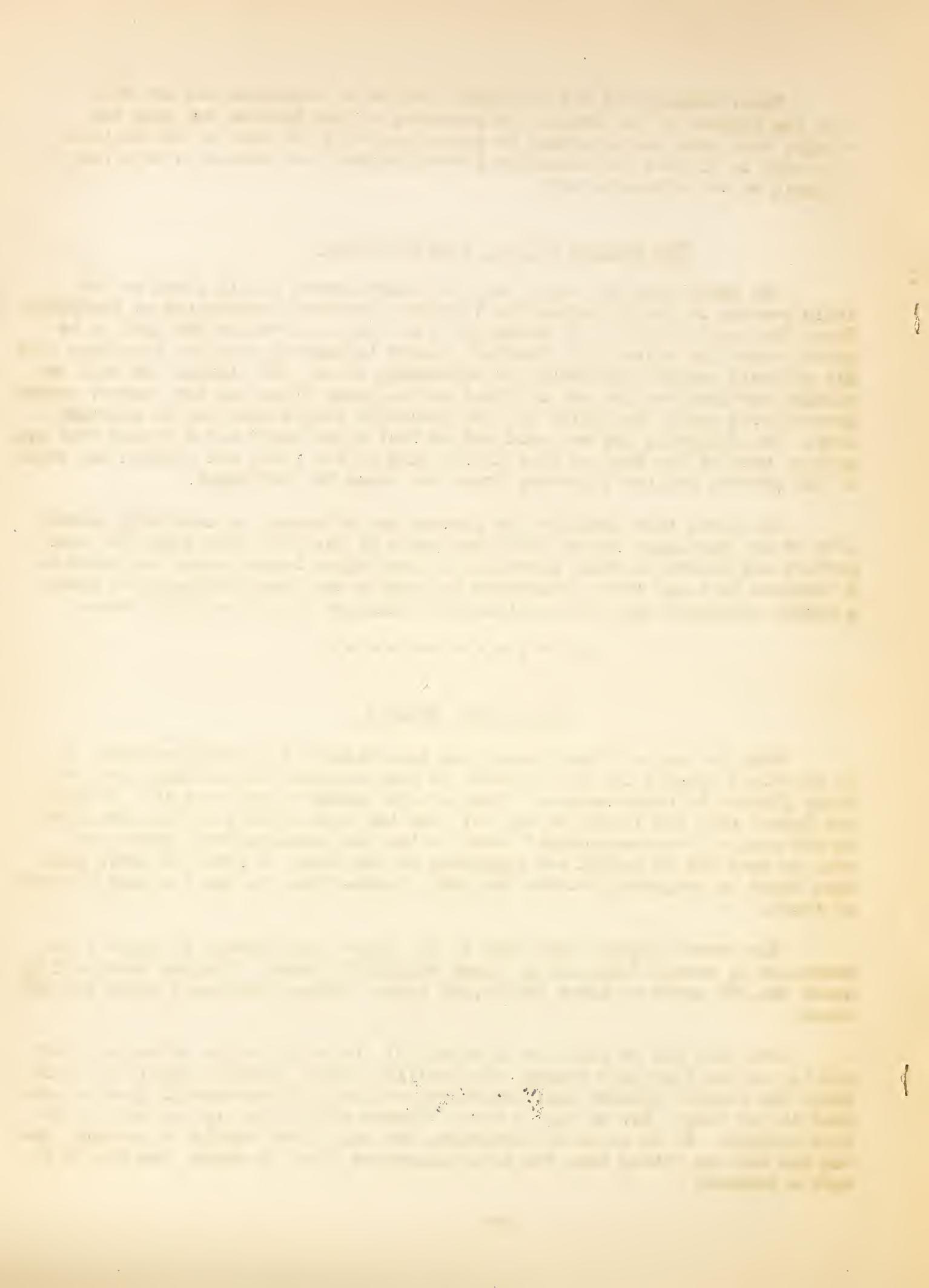
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The Farm Orchard

What is your attitude toward the farm orchard in extension work? It is certainly passing out of existence in many sections and new ones are not being planted in equal numbers. What are you going to do about it? Should the farmer grow his fruit, or buy it? Can the farm orchard be made one item in the plan of farm management? What is the farm orchard fruit worth not only in cash but in health and happiness on the farm? A treat of fruit adds good cheer to neighborly visits and many a social hour is spent around a basket of fruit.

The census figures show that in ten years, the acreage of apple trees decreased by nearly 2,000,000 or about 65,000,000 trees. Peaches decreased by about 900,000 acres or about 50,000,000 trees. Grapes decreased about 800,000 acres.

Now what are we going to do about it? It is up to the extension fruit men to provide 5,000,000 farmers and families with a generous supply of fruit. Shall the farmers produce this themselves or shall the commercial growers produce it for them? Let us have a most vigorous discussion pro and con on the farm orchard. If it is to be continued, how many trees should it contain, how can its care be fitted into the farm management plan; in short, how can it be made a success?



The Farm Garden

The farm garden is as important as the farm orchard -- possibly more so. How are the extension vegetable men meeting the problem of providing the families of 5,000,000 farmers with fresh vegetables. Let us have your opinions and results on this question.

The County Fruit or Truck Crops Committee

Is anyone actually working with a county fruit or truck crops committee--through the county agent, of course? If so, did you assist in organizing the committee and outlining the lines of work to be started or were these questions settled when you were called into the county? There is some difference of opinion among extension men as to whether county chairmen can be found who will give of their time and experience simply for the benefit of the industry. Men qualified for such leadership are usually very busy with their own affairs. If anyone has worked this out, please write us for the benefit of Extension Horticulturist readers.

Field Meetings and Results

The Extension Horticulturist should be a clearing house for the results of field work. The season is at hand now for these meetings and we hope you will have some rousing ones worth telling others about. Give us the facts and we will pass them along.

If you have made any orchard or truck crop tours, please tell us how you organized and conducted them, where you went, what you did and how you did it. These tours are a great help in showing "how the other fellow does it".

Eastern States Exposition

The Office of Exhibits of the Department of Agriculture is cooperating with the agricultural colleges of the North Atlantic states in putting on an exhibit of boys' and girls' club work at the Eastern States Exposition to be held at Springfield, Mass., September 18 to 24. It is planned to have one hundred boys and girls from eight states in attendance. The boys and girls will be taken care of in a camp on the grounds. The exhibit will be somewhat different from previous years. It is planned to make each exhibit show the value of better practices in agriculture and home economics. About 5,000 square feet of space will be required for the exhibit. Demonstration teams consisting of two or three members will be in attendance at each of the booths to describe the exhibit and inform the public what part the boys and girls are taking in the development of the agricultural program in the home community.

American Society for Horticultural Science Meeting

The next annual meeting of the A. S. H. S. will be held in Toronto, Canada, in connection with the meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The tentative dates for the A. S. H. S. meeting are

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1. *Leucosia* (Leucosia) *leucosia* (L.) (Fig. 1)

1933-1934. The first year of the new century was a year of great change in the life of the church.

December 28, 29 and 30. We hope the extension fruit and vegetable men will take a prominent part in the program and now is the time to plan for it. We need plans and policies of work as well as results. What have we accomplished during the year? Let us hear from you and let all help to make the extension portion of the program very much worth while.

Exhibits at Fairs

We are interested to know what you are doing at the state fairs and trust you will make photographs of your exhibits. If you will send us prints of the pictures, we will write up accounts of your displays for the Extension Horticulturist so that the other men in the work may have the benefit of your experience. We would like to make a collection of photographs showing exhibits at state and other fairs.

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Prof. R. H. Roberts of Madison, Wisconsin, made a very short call at the office early in the month. He was on a trip to several of the eastern states.

On August 18, Prof. G. S. Ralston of Blacksburg, Virginia, called at the office to arrange for illustrative material to be used at the state fair October 1st to 8th. One feature of this exhibit will be the utilization of sweet potatoes, including sweet potato chips, sweet potato flour and sweet potato syrup. Home ground improvement will also be illustrated.

Mr. F. L. Mulford, horticulturist who handles the landscape gardening work in the Department of Agriculture, recently made a trip into five of the southern states. The state meetings of the home demonstration agents of North Carolina and of Alabama included a course of instruction in farmstead planning and planting. The time was divided into five two-hour periods in which planning, planting, pruning and plant material were discussed. Field excursions were planned as part of the course but in Alabama showers prevented this part of the program.

Demonstrations were visited in Mississippi, Alabama and Kentucky. In Mobile County, Alabama, and at Gulfport, Miss., demonstrations were visited that were started one and two years ago respectively. A good beginning has been made although the progress seems slow to those on the farms. New farmstead demonstrations were started near Cullman, Ala., Morganfield and Cynthiana, Kentucky. The demand for help along these lines is insistent from many counties in Alabama and it is to be hoped that the state may in the near future have a part time man on this work to give the agents the help they need. Suggestions were also made concerning local parks in Mississippi and Alabama, and school grounds at two points in Alabama.

A conference was held at Jackson's Mill, W. Va. concerning the best development of a camp site to make it efficient as a state camp for club boys and girls. There were present Extension Director Frame, 4 H Club Director Kendrick, Dr. Walter Hullihan, President of the Delaware State University, a representative of the state architect's office, and F. L. Mulford.

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The Florists' Convention

August 16th to 18th the Society of American Florists and Ornamental Horticulturists held a largely attended annual meeting in Washington, D. C. The following college and federal investigators presented papers before the Society: H. B. Dorner of Illinois on "What are Agricultural Colleges Doing for the Florists", L. C. Corbett of the Department of Agriculture on "Providing Stock in Substitution for Material Excluded from Importation under Quarantine Order 37", and James H. Beattie of the Department of Agriculture on "Maintenance of Soil Fertility".

There was a large collection of exhibits of materials used by florists such as baskets, vases, prepared greens, greenhouse equipment, bulbs, some potted plants and seasonable outdoor cut flowers.

The college and investigational section was represented by six workers. It was thought the college men should make themselves felt constructively in the organization and as a first step all college workers in floriculture will be urged to join the S. A. F. & O. H.

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The extension force at the Iowa State College has recently been increased by the addition of two men, one in fruit and one in landscape work. Mr. Clyde S. Holland who has been assistant manager of the Tonoloway orchards in Western Maryland has taken up the fruit work and Mr. Harvey Cornell, who has recently obtained his master's degree in landscape architecture at Harvard has taken up the landscape work.

Mr. E. M. Graham, a graduate of the College of Agriculture of Mississippi in 1915, has been appointed to succeed Mr. A. G. Smith Jr. as extension horticulturist in that state. Since graduation Mr. Graham has served as a county agent in Mississippi and for the past three years has been agricultural agent for the Gulf Ship Island Railway. Mr. Smith is now doing extension work in Virginia.

The following extract is taken from a letter from Mr. Geo. P. Hoffman, extension horticulturist at Clemson College, S. C.

"It might be interesting to know that we have recently formed two peach growers' associations in this state, one of which is planting 24,000 peach trees and the other 22,000. These associations aggregate two dozen or more farmers and the plantings will be mainly of Elberta, Georgia Belle, and Hiley varieties."

Mr. H. P. Gould of this office is now on an extensive trip to the western group of states for the specific purpose of visiting the field stations cooperating with the Department in the conduct of horticultural and pomological work. Mr. Gould will call on the heads of the horticultural departments of the colleges wherever possible to do so.

